



Lake Michigan Fact Sheet

PLANNING FOR LAKE MICHIGAN: THE LAKEWIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Process

The Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) is a management process for protecting and improving conditions in the Lake Michigan ecosystem. The process identifies concerns, solutions, and priorities for action by coordinated efforts of tribes, local, State and Federal agencies, and a wide range of interested parties.

The Participants

Public participation in the development and implementation of the LaMP is a key component in the success of managing Lake Michigan. A comprehensive approach to public involvement is providing opportunities for people to take part in and provide input to a wide range of activities. Some of the specific activities follow:

- The Lake Michigan Forum is a broad-based stakeholders group with members from tribes, industry, environmental groups, local governmental agencies, community organizations, academia, sport and fishing groups, and representatives from each of the 10 Areas of Concern (AOC). An AOC is a location, designated by the International Joint Commission, where use of rivers, bays, or lakes is limited by pollution. The Forum meets quarterly at AOC locations around the Lake and hosts public meetings to brief local residents on timely Lake Michigan issues.
- There have been two drafts of the developing Lake Michigan LaMP. Notice of the opportunity to comment was given in the Federal Register in August 1992 and May 1995. Each notice contained a summary of the LaMP. In 1995, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responded and made changes based on the 1992 comments. There will also be public notices on future versions.
- A new partnership effort being planned is called the Lake Michigan Fellows program. Governmental agencies, the Forum, and a local sponsor will host detailed briefings on Lake Michigan issues for community leaders all around the Lake. Participants will also have the opportunity to review educational materials and to design a community project that would favorably impact the Lake Michigan ecosystem. The 10 AOCs around Lake Michigan are well into the process of developing and implementing Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) to address the problems specific to each

- watershed. The States, in coordination with local communities, have the lead in developing and carrying out these plans. EPA will provide a liaison for each of the AOCs and grant funds have been dedicated to help coordinate these efforts. Actions at the AOCs will reduce and clean up local sources of contamination, restore essential local habitats, and improve lakewide conditions.

EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office is providing both grant funds and on-line services to establish a comprehensive source of Lake Michigan information for Internet users. Providing material on the Internet a

- priority. This is where the large volume of Lake Michigan information, including reports and studies can be found. The Lake Michigan Forum has an Internet site which is linked to other Great Lakes and Lake Michigan-specific sites.

Tribes, and State and Federal agencies participate in the LaMP process through the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and the Lake Michigan Management Committee. The ongoing work of the LaMP process is conducted by the TCC in quarterly meetings and monthly conference calls. Ad hoc workgroups have been

- formed to address issues such as identifying the critical LaMP pollutants, tributary monitoring, pollution prevention, and success measures. Each TCC member represents the full interests of not only that member's own agency but also those he or she works with closely. In October 1995, EPA formed an internal multi-program Lake Michigan Team to enhance the Agency's support for the LaMP process.

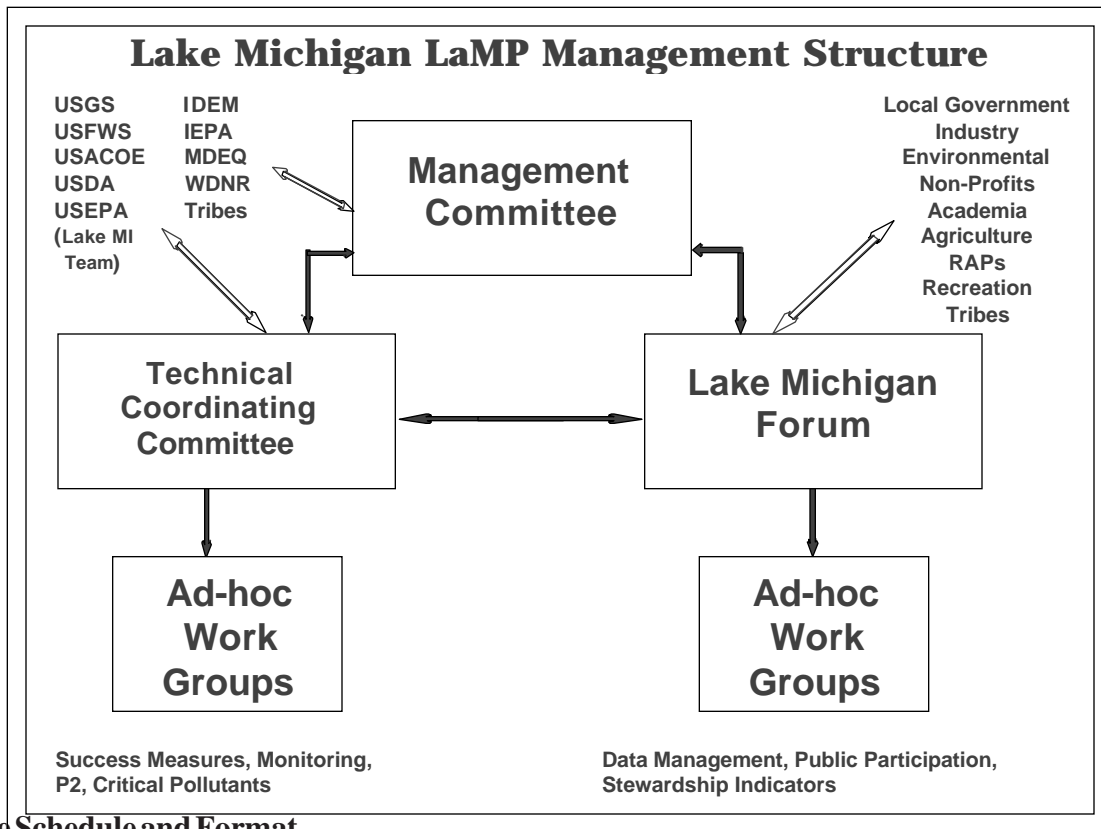
Cooperating Agencies

Agencies, in addition to EPA, represented on the TCC and Lake Michigan Management Committees are: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Chippewa/Ottawa Treaty Fishery Management Authority.

Under the LaMP organization structure, the Lake Michigan Management Committee directs overall policy, convene the TCC, and review technical workgroup products and recommendations of the Lake Michigan Forum. Managers and TCC members ensure implementation of the recommendations within their jurisdiction through programmatic and statutory authorities of their agencies. Funding can be from their agencies, through a number of grant opportunities and/or through partnerships with other public and private entities.

The Plan

The Lake Michigan LaMP is called for under the United States/Canadian Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA), as well as the 1990 Great Lakes Critical Programs Act. The current draft LaMP (September 1993) focuses on toxic pollutants, but the participating governmental agencies and stakeholders recognize that other stressors contribute to impairments of the Lake. The LaMP is responding to these expressed concerns by evolving into a plan which encompasses a broad ecosystem approach to protecting and restoring the Lake Michigan ecosystem. It also addresses the management needs presented by loss of habitat and biodiversity and the introduction of damaging exotic species and toxic pollutants. The next draft of the LaMP will include the results of a number of studies and monitoring efforts to determine the fate of pollutants entering the Lake, and how they move through air, water, or sediments into the food chain.



The Schedule and Format

The LaMP document will target those who will be making policy and resource decisions affecting the Lake and who will need concise information and recommendations. The next draft of the LaMP is planned for Fall 1997. In Fall 1996, a series of fact sheets, more general in nature, were developed to provide current information on LaMP activities.

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